

DOMESTIC ITEMS.

Encouragement to Volunteers.—We are gratified in being able to state, that the following important provision for the encouragement and support of volunteer corps, was passed at the last session of the legislature. The section was introduced by Gen. Rogers the senator from Bucks, and its passage was ably and zealously advocated by him, as being calculated to produce beneficial results. It met with much opposition when first suggested, and was once voted down in the senate. Gen. Rogers was not disposed to be thus easily discouraged—he again brought the subject forward, and ultimately succeeded in carrying it through. The volunteers of Pennsylvania will appreciate the importance of this provision, and under its operation, volunteer corps will again revive and flourish.—*Pa. Rep.*

Sec. 2. That from and after the passage of this act, every citizen of this commonwealth, and subject to the performance of military duty, residing within the bounds of the second military division, composed of the counties of Bucks and Montgomery, and also residing within the bounds of the first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, (except Berks and Schuylkill counties) seventh, ninth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth military divisions, who are now, or may be enrolled hereafter, in any volunteer corps of said divisions, and shall pay annually to the support of the said volunteer company the sum of two dollars, shall be exempted from the performance of any other military duty. *Provided,* said exemption shall not continue any longer than said company is in existence, and reads agreeably to law, and the said sum of two dollars is actually paid—the evidence of which shall be the certificate of the commanding officer of the corps; *And provided also,* that all such sums shall be paid to a member of the said volunteer corps duly authorized to receive it.

Texas Speculations.—We learn from the New Orleans papers that so great is the mania for speculations, that in the town of Houston, which stands on part of a tract bought but a short time since by General Houston, for a few cents per acre, lots 50 feet by 100 are selling for \$2,000, \$2,500, and some so high as 3,500! If things go on at this rate, we hope the government will buy up some of the Texian Scrip, which we have here in New York, and which we can spare quite conveniently in these hard times.—*N. Y. Era.*

Shaving extraordinary.—We have been informed by a merchant recently returned from New York, that a partner in one of the largest houses in that city stated to him that they had paid since the pressure, seventy-five thousand dollars in extra interest! What a commentary on the extortion of the brokers and money changers of that city! and who can be surprised that any house should fail, or rather who would not be astonished if it did not, with such a draught upon its profits and its capital in the shape of extra interest.

Accident.—Two sons of a man named Mr. Hartman, of Penns township, Union county, were, as we are informed, playing with a gun the other day, which was loaded, when the one said to the other, "shoot me," both being young, and not knowing the consequences which would ensue, when the other shot, and the whole contents lodged in the body of the former boy. He survived but a few hours. This is another warning to parents from keeping fire-arms within the reach of children.—*Star.*

The Cincinnati Chronicle says, 285,000 hogs were slaughtered in that quarter the present year. Value, three millions of dollars.

Astonishing!—The editor of the Bedford Gazette says he has received nearly FIVE hundred dollars subscription, and about THIRTY new subscribers during the last court week in that county—and all this without any dunning. We never heard tell of such punctuality in our lives; at least not since we have been at the printing business, which is upwards of thirty years.—*Miltonian.*

Some of our farmers have already commenced ploughing up their grain fields, and commenced putting in summer grain. In truth, the crops in general look very sickly, but some of the fields won't look at all.—*ib.*

John Hand, of Somerset, Pa. has invented a corset apparatus, by which it is said the ladies can squeeze themselves into the compass of a hoe handle, by pulling a couple of strings.

It is said that the anti-slavery ladies of Boston and Philadelphia, talk of holding a convention in New York, and that their husbands will be left at home to take care of the children.

The Ithaca Herald has the following:—Died suddenly at Enfield, of an extra dose of Brandy, Miss Polly Hodges, spinster, in the 64th year of her age. She retained her faith in the Doctor to the last.
"Should let her sleep from drugs and pills,
For if she wakes she'll cry for pills."

PROVISIONS.

The decline in flour, wheat, and bacon continues; and many speculators who calculated upon realizing immense profits from the necessities of the community, have met with signal and severe losses.—The supply of flour, which a few weeks ago was declared insufficient for the consumption of the country, and which was held at such enormous prices as to bring in vast quantities of foreign grain, is now found to be over abundant, and is exported in still greater quantities. The greedy monopolists who were holding back for high prices are now glad to sell at a sacrifice, happy if they escape bankruptcy. The temporary suffering which they caused in the winter has rebounded upon themselves; and but few sympathize with them, for there is an honest and hearty aversion among the people to those who would induce and profit upon starvation.

Had these cornorants been content with reasonable and fair profits, and opened their hoards at a time when the whig presses recommended the stunted population to live upon rye, corn and potatoes, they would have relieved much suffering, and averted the calamity which has fallen on themselves. But no: they would not rest until they had ground the face of the poor man to the very bone; and the snarer is meshed in his own net. We are told that the quantity of flour, wheat and bacon accumulated in this city is vast, and comes in faster than it can be sent away; that it would take two months to ship the stock on hand to the eastward, and the prospect held out in that quarter is not the brightest. Thousands of bushels of wheat and barrels of flour, are arriving, as if a supplementary harvest had followed a threatened famine. One instance, a small one will illustrate the way in which hundreds of speculators have "bit" themselves. An individual in this city last fall, bought up wheat to the amount of a few hundred bushels; in the winter, he was offered \$1.50 per bushel for it, which would have yielded him a rich profit; he was earnestly advised to sell. Not he: he put faith in the predictions of the speculator astrologers; he waited for their fulfilment.—But the artificial famine, the offspring of bank facilities, passed away; and he would now gladly accept \$1.00 for it.

Speculation, in fact has turned every thing topsy-turvy! and such a freak as "sending coals to Newcastle," is no longer a joke but an occurrence which finds a daily parallel. Flour and bacon are sent back and forward like shuttle-cocks; one week shipped from Cincinnati to Orleans and the next vice versa. And this is the blessed state of things which the people are called upon to support by fostering and encouraging the growth of bank monopolies.—*Pittsburg Mercury.*

NEW-YORK BLACK BOOK.

It will be recollected, that a year ago or more, there was considerable excitement among the merchants in various places on the subject of a system of espionage, arranged among certain merchants in this city, for the purpose of spying out the private affairs, the moral, social and pecuniary standing of their customers abroad. This system was exposed by a respectable lawyer in Virginia, who was requested to act as a spy agent—or sub-spy—to the principal office of espionage in New York. Meetings were got up at Utica and other places, on the subject, and resolutions passed expressive of the sense of the merchants in these places, of the insult offered them by the spy system, as well as of its odious nature and industrious tendency.

But, for many months, we had heard nothing on the subject, and supposed the merchants of this city had given up the spy system for a bad job. But, if we may rely on the Chicago American, they have, during the late period of quiet, been merely perfecting and preparing their system for actual use. "Our town," says that paper, "has been the scene of much excitement, owing to the reception of one of the New York Mercantile Spy Books, in which the fair character of several of our most eminent merchants, has been most villainously traduced, by a pack of knaves hired for the purpose by the merchants of New York."

The Chicago Democrat also has an account of the book, which it says purports to be a "Western Mercantile Directory;" and says great disarrangements have taken place in the plans of merchants in Chicago by its appearance—it having entirely alienated their strong prejudices in favor of the New York market, and disposed them to turn much of their trade to Boston and Philadelphia.

"Our merchandise from New York" continues the Democrat, "during the last season, must have amounted to \$5,000,000, and as a recompense for so much patronage we have had an unparalleled libel published upon our character. In real cold blooded villainy, we doubt whether the equal of this book can be found in the United States.—The author has sent a poisoned arrow to every breast. He has damned the joys of parents by depicting the rascalities of their children—he has caused the tears of sorrow to trickle down the cheeks of the wife, by picturing the dissoluteness and debaucheries of her husband; he has alienated the affections of maidens from their lovers, by calling them incendiaries and assassins; and he has caused the child, too, to mourn over the knaveries of his father. He represents communicants and deacons of our churches as consummate rascals, our postmasters as drunkards, our legisla-

tors as knaves, and our wealthiest men as bankrupts. Hardly a respectable house in Illinois has escaped his slander, whilst every villain has secured his approbation. This libellous book was taken from one of the largest houses in New York, and is known to be still hanging under the counter of many others, and when our merchants visit the city, they are to be trusted or not, according as the dapper jumper shall decide from this, his employer's book of appeals. This fact our merchants know and feel; and they will be the last men to submit to it. To ascertain authenticity of the book, our merchants have taken the right course. They will hand it over to the Grand Jury in a few weeks, who can do no less than present it as a libel. Our state authorities will then call upon those of New York for assistance in ferreting out the authors."

The actual existence of the above described book is further proved by a correspondent of the Buffalo Advertiser. He, however, calls it a pamphlet, and describes it as containing the reports of the Spies sent out by the New York merchants to pry into the private or domestic affairs of our Western merchants; and reiterates what was said in the Chicago Democrat, about the merchants trading to other places than New York.

By what stroke of fortune or of art, the spy-book fell into the hands of the Chicago merchants is not mentioned. But of the existence of such a book, after the above accounts of it, we can hardly doubt. Of the excitement on the subject we have pretty good evidence, and we shall probably have more before the matter is done with. It will not be confined to Chicago, when the whole country of the West is equally interested in the affair.—*N. Y. Transcript.*

IMPORTANT FROM MEXICO.

The schooners Camanche, Sarah Ann, and La Paz from Mexico, bring important intelligence. The latter sailed from Tampico as late as the 12th, and letters received by her inform us that Bustamante has been elected President.

The government had negotiated a loan, with the house of Rubio & Co. of Matamoros, and other ports, for from \$150,000, to \$200,000 per month, to pay the troops, for which they received in mortgage the Custom house duties. This power of Rubio & Co. over the customs, made the other merchants jealous, as the favoritism thus shown enabled Rubio & Co. to undersell their competitors in the market.

Santa Anna's party daily becomes stronger, though he remains quiet, and is even said to have requested permission to retire to Columbia.

Olarte, a Mexican Indian General, the champion of the constitutionalists, is advancing towards the ports on the gulf, carrying all before him—in fact, meeting with no opposition. Some say he is friendly to Santa Anna—others that he will ultimately be President. He is a foe to the Bustamantinos.

Tranquillity is temporarily restored in the capital; but poverty and wretchedness prevail.

About \$270,000 in specie arrived in the Camanche and in the Sarah Ann, from Tampico, for Messrs. Lizardi, Merle and others. Two persons of Havana came in the Sarah Ann, expelled by Gov. Piedra. Col. Palomino, who had gone with 200 men against Olarte, returned with only 50, the rest having joined the Indian chieftain. It was thought Santa Anna would unite with the uneducated but brave Olarte, near Tampico.

APPALLING MURDERS.

JACKSONVILLE, April 20.

On the 8th inst. the house of Mr. William Clemmons, situated on the road from Alligator to Livingston's Ferry, on the Suwannee, about twenty miles from the latter place, was attacked by Indians. The inmates consisting of Mrs. Clemmons and four children, and a little orphan lad living with Mr. Clemmons, were murdered. Mr. C. was from home at the time this awful visitation was made upon his family.

He returned on the 10th inst., the second day after the horrid transaction, and the first intimation of the calamity that had befallen his wife and little ones, was the desolate appearance of his home, and then the bodies of his wife and children, fifty or more yards from the house.—They had been shot while attempting to escape, as it would seem from the position in which the bodies lay. They were unscathed. They were both shot in the head, and so near were the guns when discharged, that the heads of these unfortunate victims were literally blown to pieces.— And to add to the horror of the sight, and anguish of the bereaved husband and father, the body of the youngest child, a babe, was almost devoured, and the arm of the mother eaten off by hogs!

Breathes the man with heart as cold, as not to sympathize with the afflicted and suffering of East Florida?

From Tampa Bay we hear that between ten and twelve hundred Indians are there, drawing rations—that Osola and Philip had not come in on the 11th April.

New York Safety Fund Banks.—A bill has passed the assembly of New York by a large majority, requiring all banks subject to the safety fund, to receive in deposit each others notes only that shall be issued after the passage of the act.

A big business.—One house in Albany has cleared and paid toll on 511 tons of merchandise the first four days the canal has been open.

THE COLUMBIA DEMOCRAT.



"TRUTH WITHOUT FEAR."

BLOOMSBURG:

Saturday, May 6, 1837.

PUBLICATION-DAY.—The "Democrat" will continue to be published on Saturday morning. Our friends in Esputown, Berwick, Foundryville, Sugar valley, McDowell's mills, Orangeville, Fishing creek, Bricker creek, Cattawissa, Rohrsville, Danville, Washingtonville, &c. will consequently receive their papers on the morning of its publication.

We are sorry that we are unable to supply new subscribers with the first number of the "Democrat." They are all gone; and while we rejoice in the increase of our patronage, we can only urge all those who wish papers from the present number to send in their names immediately, as we have printed but a small number of extras.

The members of the "Fount Fire Company," of Bloomsburg, will meet this afternoon at the Engine-house, at 4 o'clock, when a court of appeal will be held, and other business transacted relative to said Company.

WEST BRANCH BANK.—The Commissioners have advertised for sale the stock of this institution. It will be disposed of, by public auction, in Williamsport, on the 30th inst. We shall soon have more of the "pretty paper," as the notes of new banks are always called.

Bicknell's Reporter of Tuesday last states that the notes of the Lewistown Bank are again received at par in Philadelphia.

John Warren has been tried at Lancaster and found guilty of passing Counterfeit notes on the Farmers and Mechanics Bank of Philadelphia, and sentenced to three years hard labour in the penitentiary. He had a large sum of these spurious notes in his possession when taken, all of which had the stamp of R. T. Bicknell, &c.

The York Gazette speaks of Dr. Daniel Sturgeon, the present state Treasurer, as a candidate for Governor. Mr. Muhlenberg's name has been mentioned by several democratic papers, and one or two have expressed a feeling in favor of Judge Blythe. They are all sound democrats—eminently qualified; but as we go for the candidate nominated by the democratic 4th of March state convention, we shall withhold for the present any expression of our own in favour of any individual. We have been taught a lesson which shall never permit personal predilections to interfere with the selection of candidates for office; and while we anticipate union and harmony, and a good selection, we can feel somewhat easy until the period for nomination is nearer at hand.

CONSTABLES.—At the last April sessions for Northumberland county, Judge Lewis decided in favor of the election of a Constable, highest on the return, who had served more than three years out of six. His honor delivered an opinion, with which he politely favoured the editor of the Milton Farmer; and while he sustained his decision by reference to legal authorities, he has evinced a strong disposition in favor of letting the people choose their own public servants. We are pleased at this new evidence of his continued adherence to democratic principles.

PRINTERS CONVENTION.—The editors of the 16th Congressional district held a meeting in Milton on the 26th ult. and appointed Delegates to the proposed state convention of printers, which is to be held at Harrisburg on the 4th of July next. Messrs. Cummings, Eck & Middleton, of Lycoming, Messrs. Frick & Sweney, of Northumberland, and Messrs. Yearick, Seebold & Zellers, of Union, are the delegates, who are to "devise ways and means to protect the craft from imposition—to obtain adequate compensation for their labour, as well as to regulate other matters touching the press." Go ahead, brother Typos.

Upwards of 500 passengers passed through by the Camden & Amboy rail-road on Tuesday last to Philadelphia.

We have been frequently asked our opinion respecting the Morris Canal Banking Company of New Jersey; and we will frankly state that we know nothing as to the condition of the institution, excepting that Bicknell quotes it at one-and-a-half percent. below par. The reason why so many of these notes are in circulation is owing to the two or three last estimates on the Cattawissa Rail-road having been paid off in this paper—the Bank being a stockholder in the road to the amount of \$20,000. The previous estimates were paid in the notes of the Bank of the United States,—that institution having \$250,000 worth of stock.

THE MARKETS.—While Wheat is selling in Pittsburg at \$1 per bushel, and Flour at \$6.00 per barrel, it is bringing \$2 per bushel in Bloomsburg, and \$10 per barrel. In Philadelphia, Flour is selling at \$8.50. It is no uncommon matter now-a-days to hear of shipments of grain and flour from the eastern cities to the interior. What a just punishment inflicted upon those who would subject the poor to starvation, and the rich to inconvenience, by dishonorable speculations in the necessities of life. One house in New York, it is said, has lost \$100,000 by speculating in flour.

Our Farmers have been cheered with warm rains and sunshine during this week; and the grain fields begin to have the colour and growth which promise a bountiful harvest. We can only hope for the best; and in the meantime would caution our farmers, who in reality are "the salt of the earth," upon whom we must rely for all the necessities of life, against being too hasty in ploughing up their grain fields for a fall crop. They must remember the gloomy aspect which induced such a course in the spring of 1833, and the heavy crops which were yielded to those who let their fields alone, with a reliance upon Providence. Such will most probably be the case the present season.

Our friends in Williamsport have been put to their trumps, and are making considerable fuss respecting the location of a Depot for the Williamsport and Elmira Rail Road Company. William P. Farland, the agent of said company, purchased a farm from Charles Hepburn, Esq. in the vicinity of Williamsport; and, as rumor will have it, intends laying out a Town, "for the purpose of making it the termination of transportation on said road." The location of such a town would materially injure Williamsport; and as the enterprising citizens of that Borough have borne all the expenses incident to the formation of said company, we think such a course of conduct, on the part of the company, would reflect no credit upon the individuals concerned, and materially injure its corporate character, by alienating every kind of confidence in the motives and integrity of those who govern its transactions. A meeting was held in Williamsport recently, at which Gen. Anthony presided, and a committee, with the Hon. Ellis Lewis at its head, were appointed to enquire into the matter.

On Monday last the following persons were duly elected officers of the Cattawissa Bridge Company, for the ensuing year, viz:

President:
JOSEPH PAXTON.
Managers:
WILLIAM McKELVY,
STEPHEN BALDY,
CASPER HARTMAN,
JOSEPH BROBST,
GEORGE H. WILLETS,
BENJAMIN BOONE.
Treasurer and Secretary:
EZRA S. HAYHURST.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.—In Bloom, Cattawissa and Hemlock townships, the people have decided against a continuance of the Common School System. The vote in Bloom stood 132 against, and 50 for the system.

SILVER MINE.—The Wilkesbarre Advocate of the 17th ult. mentions the discovery of a silver mine in Plymouth township, Luzerne county. If this be a correct rumor, Mr. Darius Williams, on whose premises the valuable mineral has been found will get wonderful rich "all at once," and the Wyoming Valley have another cause to render it conspicuous in the annals of history. However, "it is not all gold that glistens," says an old proverb; "nor is it all silver that shines," quoth the Advocate. The suggestion should prevent the proprietor from "building castles in the air."